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General Assembly

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First Committee

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the First Committee is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/307, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/69/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014:

(a) Paragraph 13 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly encouraged the Main Committees:

(i) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(ii) To elect the bureau of each Committee at least three months in advance of the session for better coordination and for smoother handover of their work;

(iii) To benefit from their respective intranet and other online services to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(iv) To share experiences, best practices and lessons learned concerning their respective working methods;

(v) To further enhance sharing of information on the work and activities of the Main Committees within each Main Committee (see A/69/250, para. 10);

(b) Paragraph 14 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the sixty-ninth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate (see A/69/250, para. 11);

(c) The relevant provisions contained in the resolution concerning the interim arrangement adopted in decision 68/505 recommending the pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions, namely from the sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on

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the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees contained in the annex to the resolution (see A/69/250, para. 12);

(d) The relevant provisions contained in the resolution relating to the request of the General Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees of the Assembly with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly no later than at the seventy-second session, and the invitation to Member States to present proposals and begin early on to give attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly, with the annex to the resolution containing an option to be considered in that context (see A/69/250, para. 13);

(e) Paragraphs 18 and 19 of the resolution, on the need to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing the number and distribution of such events, and the possibility of scheduling future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences (see A/69/250, para. 20);

(f) Paragraph 16 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly emphasized that the Assembly and its Main Committees, at the sixty-ninth session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group (see A/69/250, para. 56).